

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A camera with a focus retaining mechanism, comprising:

- 5 a base having a cylindrical lens barrel;
a focusing lens mounted within the lens barrel, the
focusing lens ~~is~~ movable in a first or a second direction
along an optical axis;
a retaining member horizontally and movably mounted on the
10 base for setting the focusing lens in a predetermined
position, wherein the retaining member comprises a
ratchet side, a smooth side opposite the ratchet side,
a first end and a second end positioned on opposite ends
of the ratchet side and the smooth side; and
15 a retaining hook movably mounted on the base, the retaining
hook comprising a horizontal arm, which has a vertical
end downwardly extending to hook the retaining member
~~in a initial state, and~~ moving substantially over the
retaining member horizontally;
20 wherein when the focusing lens moves in the first direction,
the vertical end of the retaining hook contacts the first
end of the retaining member and then slides along the
ratchet side; when the focusing lens stops, the vertical
end of the retaining hook hooks the ratchet side ~~and thus~~
25 ~~setting to set~~ the focusing lens; and when the focusing
lens moves to the second direction, the vertical end slides
back along the smooth side to the ~~initial state~~ first end.

2. (Original) The camera with a focus retaining mechanism
30 according to claim 1, wherein the horizontal arm and the
vertical end of the retaining hook are monolithically made
from a flexible metallic wire.

3. (Currently amended) The camera with a focus retaining mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising:

a flexible component mounted on the base for flexibly holding the retaining member; and

a driving motor mounted on the base for urging the retaining member;

wherein when the driving motor urges the retaining member to move the focusing lens, the focusing lens moves in the first direction within the lens barrel and the vertical end of the retaining hook contacts the first end of the retaining member and then slides along the ratchet side; when the focusing lens stops moving, the vertical end of the retaining hook hooks the ratchet side and ~~thus setting~~ to set the focusing lens; and when the focusing lens continues to move in the first direction, the vertical end of the retaining hook passes the second end of the retaining member, separates from the ratchet side, ~~passes the second end of the retaining member~~, and then ~~attaches to~~ positions along the smooth side; thereafter when the focusing lens starts to move in the second direction, the vertical end slides back along the smooth side to the ~~initial state~~ first end.

4. (Original) The camera with a focus retaining mechanism according to claim 3, further comprising:

a driving ring mounted atop the retaining member; and
a connecting ring movably mounted beneath the retaining member;

wherein the driving motor urges the retaining member through the driving ring and the connecting ring.

5. (Original) The camera with a focus retaining mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the driving ring and the connecting ring are rotatably mounted in the periphery of the lens barrel.

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6. (Currently amended) The camera with a focus retaining mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the retaining member is arc-shaped with an inner side and an outer side, and wherein the ratchet side and the smooth side are separately located on the inner side and the outer side.

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7. (Original) The camera with a focus retaining mechanism according to claim 6, wherein the retaining member is rotatably mounted on the lens barrel of the base.

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8. (Original) The camera with a focus retaining mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the smooth side is a sidewall of a guide groove which allows the passing of the vertical end of the retaining hook from the second end to the first end of the retaining member along the smooth side.

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9. (Currently amended) A lens retaining device capable of positioning a focusing lens, comprising:

a base having a cylindrical lens barrel vertically formed

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at the center part of the base for accommodating the focusing lens;

a retaining member rotatably mounted on periphery of the lens barrel for controlling the position of the focusing lens in the lens barrel, the retaining member comprising a ratchet side, a smooth side opposite the ratchet side, a first end and a second end; wherein the ratchet side and the smooth side are disposed between

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the first end and the second end;
a first driving device for urging the retaining member to rotate in a first direction;
a second driving device for providing an urging force for
5 the retaining member to rotate in a second direction, wherein the first direction is a reverse direction of the second direction; and
a retaining hook for positioning and engaging with ratchet side of the retaining member when the retaining member
10 rotates to a predetermined position in the first direction so as to resist the urging force provided by the second driving device that makes the retaining member rotate in the second direction, and when the retaining hook slides along the ratchet side passing
15 the second end, the retaining hook slides into the smooth side and the second driving device urges the retaining member to rotate in the second direction.

10. (Currently amended) The lens retaining device according
20 to claim 9, wherein the ratchet side has a plurality of ratchets thereof, and wherein the plurality of ratchets provide a plurality of positioning ~~status~~ states for the focusing lens.

11. (Currently amended) The lens retaining device according
25 to claim 9, wherein the retaining ~~member~~ hook comprises:
a horizontal arm with one end fixed on the base; and
a vertical end extending from the other end of the horizontal arm for engaging with ratchet side of the retaining member.

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12. (Currently amended) The lens retaining device according to claim 10, wherein the retaining member is arc-shaped, and

the ratchet side is disposed on one side of the retaining member, ~~and wherein the ratchet side comprises a first end and a second end.~~

- 5 13. (Currently amended) The lens retaining device according to claim 11, wherein when the retaining member rotates in the first direction, the vertical end of the retaining hook slides along the ratchet side from the first end to the second end; ~~while~~ and when the focusing lens stops, the vertical end of
10 the retaining hook hooks the ratchet side ~~and thus setting to set~~ the focusing lens.

14. (Canceled)

- 15 15. (Original) The lens retaining device according to claim 9, wherein the second driving device is a flexible component.